

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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R 010500 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8714

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1779

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR SN

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER' S STATEMENT ON BIG POWER
RELATIONSHIPS WITH SEA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SPEAKING ON APRIL 26 BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF ABOUT 100 AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN RESIDENT IN SINGAPORE, FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM SUMMARIZED GOS THINKING ABOUT FUTURE BIG POWER RELATIONSHIPS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. WHILE HIS REMARKS WERE NOT ESSENTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT HE AND THE PRIME MINISTER HAVE BEEN SAYING OR IMPLYING FOR SOME MONTHS, HE RATHER BLUNTLY STATED THAT A U. S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE REGION WOULD CREATE A POWER VACUUM WHICH THE ONLY OTHER GLOBAL POWER THE SOVIET UNION, WOULD FILL. HE SAID, IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE COUNTRIES OF SEA WOULD HAVE TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

2. HE STATED THAT IT IS UNREALISTIC IN TODAY' S SHRUNKEN WORLD TO EXPECT BIG POWERS TO CONFIRM THEMSELVES TO THEIR NATIONAL FRONTIERS AND THAT SINGAPORE' S
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ATTITUDE IS " WE WANT ALL BIG POWERS TO BE HERE ". IT IS NOT UNLIKELY, HE SAID, THAT IF SMALL COUNTRIES IN THE REGION KEEP UP AGITATION, SAYING THAT BIG POWERS SHOULD LEAVE THE REGION ALONE AND GO BACK TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, THE U. S. BEING A DEMOCRACY SUBJECT TO DEMOCRATIC PRESSURES MAY DECIDE TO WITHDRAW. " THAT WOULD LEAVE US WITH LESSER ROOM FOR MANEUVER. THE USSR HAS NO PRETENCE OF WANTING TO WITHDRAW. WHETHER IN MILITARY, NAVAL OR ECONOMIC FIELDS, USSR' S GLOBAL INFLUENCE IS EXPANDING. IF THE U. S. WITHDRAWS BECAUSE OF DEMOCRATIC OR DOMESTIC PRESSURE, THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE GLOBAL POWER, AND WE WILL HAVE TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE GLOBAL POWER WHICH STAYS. IT IS FOR THE U. S. TO DECIDE, WHETHER SHE WANTS TO BE JUST AMERICA AND BE SHUT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD".

3. IN REGARD TO RECOGNITION OF PEKING BY SEA NATIONS THE FOREIGN MINISTER MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WILL NOT BE IN THE VANGUARD SAYING " WE DON' T MIND BEING LAST IN THE QUEUE".

4. PRESS REPORT OF SPEECH BEING POUCHED.
CRONK

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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